

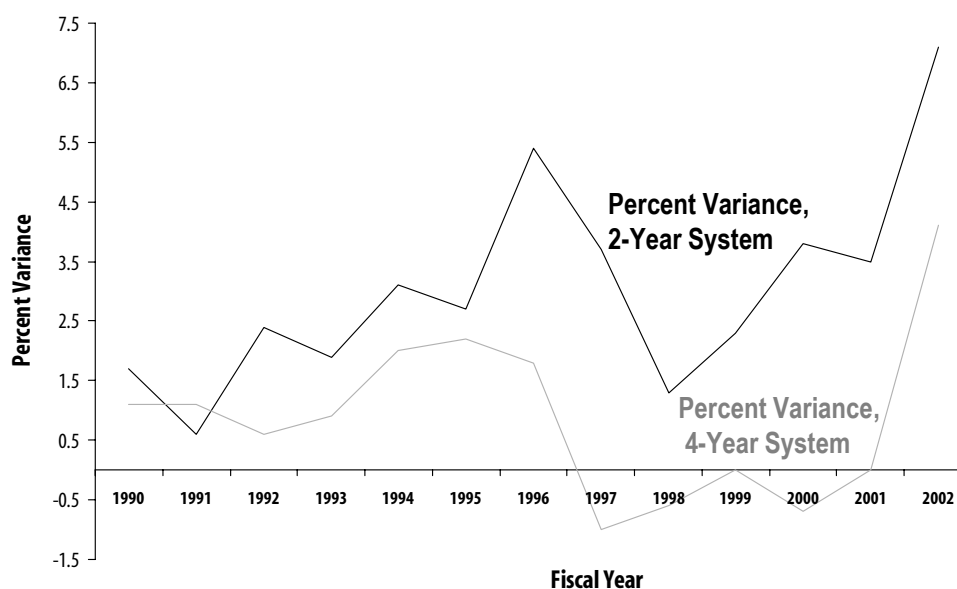
Percentage Variance of Actual and Budgeted FTEs for Washington's 2- and 4-Year Institutions from 1990-2002

Percentage Variance of Actual and Budgeted for 2- and 4-Year Institutions, 1990-2002

Fiscal Year	2-Year	4-Year
1990	1.7	1.1
1991	0.6	1.1
1992	2.4	0.6
1993	1.9	0.9
1994	3.1	2
1995	2.7	2.2
1996	5.4	1.8
1997	3.7	-1
1998	1.3	-0.6
1999	2.3	0
2000	3.8	-0.7
2001	3.5	0
2002	7.1	4.1

- ▶ Each biennium, the two- and four-year higher education institutions are budgeted for a certain level of state-funded, full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments.
- ▶ Despite the “baby boom echo” of the late 1990s, actual enrollment at four-year institutions in the aggregate was about half a percentage point below budgeted FTEs.
- ▶ The shortfall was likely due to the strength of the Washington economy, causing many potential students to postpone studies.
- ▶ “Under-enrollment,” however, was concentrated in eastern Washington campuses, while four-year institutions in western Washington continued to enroll above budgeted levels.
- ▶ As the economy slowed, the variance between budgeted and actual FTEs for the four-year institutions disappeared in the 2000-01 academic year; in the following year, enrollments exceeded budgeted FTEs by more than four percent, with all institutions enrolling above budgeted FTEs.
- ▶ Variances changed very little for the two-year system during the state's economic boom. A high percentage of students in the two-year system are enrolled part-time and are able to take advantage of job opportunities in a strong economy while still taking courses.

“Under-Enrollment” Came to an End as the Economy Slowed



SOURCES: OFM
Budget Driver Reports,
1990-2002.